

Guidelines for Forests: Sustainable management in Catalonia - the detected need for inter-sectoral co-ordination

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Abstract

Although from the territorial planning point of view, forests are contemplated in a general and often strategic way, the national forest programme (NFP) of Catalonia, the named “General Forest Policy Plan” envisages no action towards inter-sectorial coordination. The Catalonia NFP was mainly drawn up by a section in the department responsible for forests. During the discussion and participative process basically only universities, landowners and forest professionals were taken into account (the consultative institution named “inter-sectorial board” is actually an inter-professional board of forest professionals).

The impact of other sector on the forest sector is evident and policy makers are aware of the need for an inter-sectoral approach. However, there are currently no examples or clear procedures for implementing this.

In 2001, the “Association for Sustainable Forest Management Certification in Catalonia” was founded. This association promoted the drawing up of the Technical Forest Report for the development of regional forest certification, in accordance with the specific indicators and criteria developed within a participatory process (UNE 162002-1 / UNE 162002-2)

Some guidelines and needs for improvement in forests and forestry at regional and management unit level emerge from this analysis. In these guidelines the need for inter-sectoral collaboration is stated and the sectors that necessarily have to be involved are defined.

Those sectors and the administrative departments whose implication is proposed as a requirement for the future national forest programme for Catalonia are highlighted.